

I will stop there for just a moment to recognize the actions on the floor of the legislature in unanimously passing the bill provided to them by Governor Jeb Bush regarding the Florida Everglades which, of course, is a key part and component of the long-term solutions of saving Florida and obviously providing an abundant supply of water. That bill provides \$123 million over the course of the next several years in order to accomplish environmental restoration. That is critical to be acknowledged on the floor today because we will ultimately take up the restudy bill, which is a bill that has been strongly championed by the Florida delegation in order to get money necessary to complete the important re-plumbing of the Florida Everglades and surrounding environments.

Congress has recognized a similar problem before in Western States and in the United States territories. A limited number of State governments are now eligible for funding to develop alternative water resources through the Bureau of Reclamation. We need to answer the call of high-population growth States such as Florida now with a comparable plan. Florida has taken aggressive steps through conservation and identification of alternative water sources. Unfortunately, these steps are clearly not enough.

High-population growth States need action by Congress now to prevent disastrous consequences later. So I urge my colleagues both to vote for the rule and vote for the underlying legislation, H.R. 1106, the Alternative Water Resources Act of 1999.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the rule. I yield back the balance of the time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to House Resolution 483 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 673.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving

water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge strong support for H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, because it is going to help improve and maintain one of our Nation's real treasures, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The water quality experts have found that the inadequate wastewater treatment and storm water management systems are major contributors of pollution in the nearby waters of the Florida Keys. This pollution is threatening the ecosystem's health and viability. However, the costs to make the necessary wastewater and storm water improvements represent an enormous burden to the 85,000 permanent residents of Monroe County, Florida. So that is why I would urge all Members of Congress to support passage of this bill.

It provides Federal assistance to help Monroe County afford the necessary improvements to protect the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to join with our distinguished chairman in strong support of H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act.

The Florida Keys are a spectacular natural resource of international significance. Home to North America's only living coral barrier reef, the Florida Keys are located in a unique and fragile marine environment requiring special attention. We must ensure that these resources are protected for future generations.

The Florida Keys marine ecosystem is dependent upon clean, clear water with low nutrient levels for its survival. However, as population and tourism within the Keys have increased over the years, improvements in wastewater and storm water management have not kept pace. The result is an increased discharge of pollutants into the near-shore waters of the Florida Keys. This increased pollution has had devastating effects on the marine environment, and is threatening the reefs of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The legislation on the floor today will assist greatly in improving the

water quality of the Florida Keys region. H.R. 673, as amended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, would establish a grant program under the Environmental Protection Agency for the construction of treatment works projects aimed at improving the water quality of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The administrator of EPA, after consultation with State and local officials, would be authorized to fund treatment works projects that comply or are consistent with local growth ordinances, plans and agreements, as well as current water quality standards. Projects funded under this program would be cost-shared, with local sponsors providing a minimum of 25 percent of the project costs.

Monies authorized by this bill will be utilized to replace the dated, inefficient methods of sewage and storm water treatment currently being used in the Keys with modern waste and storm water treatment works.

By ensuring that the nutrients associated with such wastes are not discharged or released into the surrounding waters, we can prevent further damage to the marine environment and achieve dramatic improvement to the water quality in the National Marine Sanctuary.

Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) for their hard work in bringing this matter to the consideration of the committee. I support this legislation and urge its approval.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), for a colloquy.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this legislation; and I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), who represents the Keys, in bringing this forward. I also commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), who is chairman of the subcommittee, as they go through this process of evaluating the restoration of the Florida Keys.

It is going to be one of the largest single, as we know, public works projects in history; and we are excited about the future of being able to restore the Everglades to that river of grasses that was so eloquently written about over 50 years ago.

I proposed an amendment, which I will not be making, because of some concerns I had about issues within the Everglades, because when we talk about the quality of water, and that is what we are talking about is the quality of the water in the Everglades, and the gentleman was talking about the runoff in the Keys and also the issue of septic tanks, we need to talk about agricultural runoff that flows from the

Keys. And there is no question it has a negative impact on the Keys and Florida Bay, which everybody has used great superlatives to describe this delicate marine ecosystem, as was used earlier that we need to make sure that we are allowed and the EPA is allowed to continue to address the issue of agricultural runoff and that there is nothing in this bill that would preclude the EPA from addressing that particular issue.

So that is essentially what my concern is, that the EPA can continue to address any of the concerns about agricultural runoff, and this does not prevent that from happening.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman is absolutely correct, this bill focuses solely on the role of financial assistance.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Great. The sugar program is one that encourages overproduction of sugar, and it has that negative impact because of the pollutants of fertilizer and such so I think we need to address that issue; and it will come up at other times during the year, and we will address it at that time.

So I appreciate the chairman's assurance.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), the prime sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, this is really in many ways one of, I would not even say proudest but happiest days that I have served in the United States Congress just listening to the debate over the last half hour or so in terms of the Florida Keys, because for anyone who has been listening for the last half hour or so we have Members from around the country speaking as eloquently, if not better, about the beauty and the significance of the Florida Keys as I could myself.

I think that is the statement that this is not a resource just of Monroe County, and the truth is it is not even just a resource of the United States of America, but it truly is an international resource. There is only one Everglades in the world. There is only one Florida Bay. There is only one living coral reef in North America which is basically outside or part of the Florida Keys, part of Monroe County. So this has really been a very heartwarming last half hour or so, but more than that it has been a heartwarming process that we are here today with this bill on the floor.

I really want to thank my colleagues from the Florida delegation, specifically the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), who is the prime sponsor with me, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), and the gentleman

from Florida (Mr. GOSS) as well, who have worked so hard throughout the process but also the Members in the leadership of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for their commitment to this critical national priority.

Mr. Chairman, today Congress advances America's commitment to the Florida Keys. An American treasure is at risk and the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act will help save North America's only living coral reef.

A 150-mile chain of islands which rose from ancient coral rock, the Florida Keys comprise the southern end of the Everglades ecosystem. While the spectacular coral reef is the Keys' most popular feature, they are also known for native seagrass beds, lush tropical hardwood hammocks, mangrove forests, rocky pinelands, the endangered key deer, and a wide array of aquatic life.

Only about 80,000 people live in the Keys community of Monroe County, but the mystery of this tropical paradise attracts over 2 million visitors every year.

The Keys are a tropical paradise, but they are at risk of becoming a paradise lost. Mr. Chairman, pollution is the number one problem. Pristine water which was once crystal clear in many places now is turning pea green. The living reef tract is becoming infected with disease and many parts are dying off completely. Last summer, unchecked pollution closed beaches throughout the county, including most beaches in Key West. Up and down the Keys, health officials warn against swimming close to shore.

Unless decisive action is taken to stop the flow of pollution, scientists warn the ecosystem will continue its decline towards total collapse. The source of the problem is clear. The Keys have almost no water quality infrastructure. Lacking adequate technology, untreated wastewater now travels easily through porous limestone rock into the near-shore waters. Polluted storm water also flows from developed land into the same near-shore waters.

Mr. Chairman, the Christian Science Monitor clearly described the problem in an article which appeared exactly one year ago today: "One of the most treasured marine ecosystems in the United States is literally being flushed down the toilet."

H.R. 673 addresses this problem by authorizing \$213 million for the deployment of water quality technology throughout the Keys. The legislation is a natural extension of the Federal commitment to the Florida Keys under the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act approved by Congress in 1990.

□ 1115

The Sanctuary Act established a Federal role in research and protection of

the Keys marine ecosystem. It directed the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Florida to establish a Water Quality Steering Committee which was charged with developing a comprehensive water quality protection program. In fulfilling this directive, the steering committee worked closely with dedicated citizens, scientists, and technical experts. In the final analysis, it found that inadequate waste water and storm water systems are the largest source of pollution in the Keys.

H.R. 673 also authorizes grants under the Clean Water Act for the construction of water quality improvements according to Monroe County's waste water master plan and plans of incorporated municipalities. Projects will be funded on a 75 percent Federal, 25 percent non-Federal base.

One point is important to stress: Even with appropriate Federal support, the people of the Keys will still pay more than twice the national average in monthly sewer bills. I think my constituents will agree that it is a price worth paying.

Let me just add also a word of thanks to everyone in Monroe County. It has been an incredibly supportive effort at every level, environmentalists, the Chamber of Commerce groups, it has been totally a success story I think in policy in terms of the Congress as well over a number of years.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, the Florida Keys are a unique marine environment and include the only living coral reef barrier system in North America. So this is not something that is just about Florida, it is about America.

In 1990, Congress recognized the importance of the Florida Keys and created the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A Water Quality Steering Committee created under the sanctuary's implementing act has identified inadequate waste water and storm water controls in Monroe County, Florida, as the largest source of man-made pollution into the waters of the Florida Keys.

To make the necessary waste water improvements, the estimated cost to improve near shore water quality in the Florida Keys is between \$184 million and \$418 million. To make the necessary storm water management improvements, the estimated cost is between \$370 million and \$680 million. We are not going to bear the entire cost, even though this is a national resource. The State of Florida is obligated to come up with 25 percent cost share.

H.R. 673 authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to public agencies in Florida to replace inadequate waste water and treatment systems and to establish, replace, or improve storm water management systems in Monroe County, Florida.

Let me say that I want to thank the stars of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and I am talking about our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER); the distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR); and my colleague, the distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI).

I say they are "stars" because this committee, week after week, comes to the floor with meaningful legislation that builds our Nation's infrastructure and that protects our Nation's precious natural resources. We have a track record that is the envy of all other committees of this Congress and that is a tribute to our leadership, that is a tribute to the bipartisanship and the determination of our committee to work constructively and positively for responsible public policy that affects all Americans. I am privileged to be associated with the committee.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I join with over half of the Florida delegation to support H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act of 2000, that will provide \$213 million to help preserve one of this nation's crown jewels.

Within the Florida Keys lies the only living coral reef bed in the United States and the third largest in the world.

The coral reef is also home to plants and animals unique to this area that make up a rare and sensitive ecosystem.

The Keys are being threatened with disease and even death if the raw wastewater flowing through the porous limestone of the Key is not treated and cleaned up.

Inadequate wastewater and stormwater infrastructure have caused the once pure waters to become polluted and dirty, threatening not only the viability of the living reef tract, but the plants and animals that are dependent upon it.

Throughout the Keys, antiquated septic tanks leak and outdated sewage systems leak refuse into these waters, flowing directly through the permeable limestone.

H.R. 673 authorizes a 75/25 split between federal grants and non-federal monies to construct the necessary infrastructure.

The communities of the Keys lack the tax base to provide an adequate solution without federal help, and even with passage of H.R. 673, residents will pay twice the national average in sewer bills.

The chain of islands runs 150 miles and are home to 80,000 residents, but each year, they receive over two million visitors which adds more stress to the fragility of the ecosystem.

The popularity of these islands has actually exacerbated the problems facing the Keys.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to ensure that one of our na-

tion's gems is restored to its previous pristine condition.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 673

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 121. FLORIDA KEYS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator may make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate public agencies of the State of Florida or Monroe County, Florida, for the planning and construction of treatment works to improve water quality in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

"(b) CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS.—In applying for a grant for a project under subsection (a), an applicant shall demonstrate that—

"(1) the applicant has completed adequate planning and design activities for the project;

"(2) the applicant has completed a financial plan identifying sources of non-Federal funding for the project;

"(3) the project complies with—

"(A) applicable growth management ordinances of Monroe County, Florida;

"(B) applicable agreements between Monroe County, Florida, and the State of Florida to manage growth in Monroe County, Florida; and

"(C) applicable water quality standards; and

"(4) the project is consistent with the master wastewater and stormwater plans for Monroe County, Florida.

"(c) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting projects to receive grants under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider whether a project will have substantial water quality benefits relative to other projects under consideration.

"(d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with—

"(1) the Water Quality Steering Committee established under section 8(d)(2)(A) of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (106 Stat. 5054);

"(2) the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force established by section 528(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3771–3773);

"(3) the Commission on the Everglades established by executive order of the Governor of the State of Florida; and

"(4) other appropriate State and local government officials.

"(e) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a project carried out using amounts from grants made under subsection (a) shall not be less than 25 percent.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section—

"(1) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

"(2) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

"(3) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2005.

Such sums shall remain available until expended."

The CHAIRMAN. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

Are there any amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DEUTSCH

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. DEUTSCH:

Page 2, line 13, strike "and other appropriate" and all that follows through the end of line 14 and insert the following:

, appropriate agencies of municipalities of Monroe County, Florida, and other appropriate public agencies of the State of Florida or Monroe County

Mr. DEUTSCH (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEUTSCH. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, we support this amendment. It is a technical amendment. It makes a change to clarify the intent of the bill to ensure that appropriate public agencies in Monroe County are eligible to receive assistance. We support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEUTSCH. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, we have reviewed this amendment and agree that it is a clarifying amendment, and will be happy to support the gentleman.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there other amendments?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TRAFICANT

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. TRAFICANT:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; REQUIREMENT REGARDING NOTICE.

(a) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case of any equipment or products that may be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided under this Act (including any amendment made by this Act), it is the sense of the Congress that entities receiving such assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

(b) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In providing financial assistance under this Act (including any amendment made by this Act), the head of each Federal agency shall provide to each recipient of the assistance a notice describing the statement made in subsection (a) by the Congress.

(c) NOTICE OF REPORT.—Any entity which receives funds under this Act shall report any expenditures on foreign-made items to the Congress within 180 days of the expenditure.

Mr. TRAFICANT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, the American taxpayer is going to pay to clean up the Keys. I would like to see that it be possible that American taxpayer dollars be spent to buy American goods and services.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment. It is a buy-America amendment, it is a good amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I want to say we would be happy to support this as well. The gentleman is a champion of American workers, and this is a good amendment.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I ask for an aye vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to the bill?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The commitment amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WICKER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, pursuant to House Resolution 483, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 485 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1106.

□ 1124

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1106) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development for the purpose of maximizing available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation was introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) and authorizes EPA grants for alternative water source projects to meet critical water supply needs.

Water supply needs in many parts of our country are under increasing pressure. We simply do not have a nationwide program that is focusing on reclaiming and reusing water. This legislation addresses that gap by authorizing EPA grants for alternative water source projects.

This bill has broad bipartisan support. It passed the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by unanimous voice vote. It is a very sound environmental bill, and I urge its support.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me first congratulate the chairman of the committee for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also want to thank our distinguished subcommittee chairman for his great leadership and, of course, acknowledge our ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) once again for providing great leadership. As our subcommittee chairman noted on the previous bill, this is a committee that works and it works in a bipartisan fashion and we are very pleased with that.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1106, the Alternative Water Sources Act of 2000. This legislation would establish a new program within EPA to provide financial assistance for alternative water source projects under the Clean Water Act. These projects would enhance water supplies by conserving, managing, reclaiming or reusing water or wastewater, or by treating wastewater in areas where there is a critical water supply need.

As stated in the committee report, all the problems eligible for funding under this program are within the Clean Water Act definition of treatment works, and subject to the requirements of Section 513 of the Act relating to grants.

H.R. 1106, as amended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, has a number of safeguards to ensure that water source projects supported by this program will receive appropriate scrutiny.